

Remarks

The allowable subject matters of claims 7, 14, 15 and 17 are noted and appreciated. Original claim 7 has been rewritten as (currently amended) independent claim 7 to include the limitations of claims 1, 6 and 7. Original claim 7 has also been rewritten as (new) independent claim 18 to include the limitations of claims 1, 2, 6 and 7.

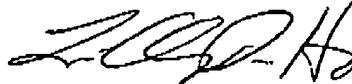
Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Otto et al. Claim 1 recites in part "removing at least a portion of said plastic layer (1)." Otto et al. discloses pressing the penetrating portion through the plastic layer (col 2, ll. 7-10 and 56-61). The method disclosed in Otto et al. does not include removing at least a portion of the plastic layer.

Claim 1 further recites in part "providing a conductive covering section (4) which covers the area of connection (3) on all sides or more than covers the area of connection (3) on all sides." The clip 2 of Otto et al. has a longitudinal slit 7 (col. 3, ll. 32-34). The slit 7 leaves a section of the connection uncovered. The method disclosed in Otto et al. does not include providing a conductive covering section (4) which covers the area of connection on all sides or more than covers the area of connection (3) on all sides.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Otto et al in view of Ikeda et al. Claim 6 recites in part "the covering section (4) consists of a heat-shrinkable sleeve made of electrically conductive plastic." Ikeda et al. discloses a heat-shrinkable polyethylene tube provided with a copper wire (col. 6, ll. 64-67). The method disclosed in Otto et al. does not include providing a cover section consisting of a heat-shrinkable sleeve made of electrically conductive plastic.

A reconsideration and allowance of the claims of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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